

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9439

INFO AMEMBASSY ACARACAS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMCONSUL MERIDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, MX

SUBJ: EXTENSION OF REFORMA PETROLEUM FIELD AND 1975 EXPORT SALES

1. PUBLISHED REPORTS QUOTE PEMEX DIRECTOR GENERAL DOVALI AS SAYING NEW PETROLEUM FIELDS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN BAY OF CAMPECHE " JUSTIFYING IMMEDIATE COMMERICAL EXPLOITATION." THE LATEST EXPLORATORY WELLS ARE LOCATED 70 KM NORTH OF CIUDAD CARMEN IN THE BAY OF CAMPECHE.

2. FOLLOWING UP ON PRESS STORY, PETOFF CHECKED WITH PEMEX CONTACT AND WAS TOLD FINDINGS STILL PRELIMINARY AND CORRECTED MISLEADING INFERENCE OF PRESS STORIES THAT NEW DISCOVERIES REPRESENT SEPARATE FIELD. PEMEX CONVINCED THAT, DUE TO VERY SIMILAR GEOLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND COMPOSITION OF CRUDE FOUND, LATEST STRIKE IS EXTENSION OF REFORMA, CHIAPAS, FIELDS.

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3. CRUDE ENCOUNTERED AT 3,535 METERS BENEATH A CALCAREOUS

LAYER OF ROCK. COMPOSITION OF CRUDE SAID SIMILAR TO REFORMA. DRILLING DONE FROM DRIPP SHIP, WITH LITTLE OR NO STIMULATION OF FLOW.

4. PEMEX CONTACT ALSO REPORTED CRUDE EXPORT SALES BELOW 1975 PROJECTIONS, WITH EXPORTS FROM JANUARY TO JUNE TALLING 14.5 MILLION BBL. JULY EXPORTS MEASURED 116,000 BBL/DAY, INCLUDING ASHLAND RECEIVING 6,000 BPD; MOBIL, 15,000 BPD; SHELL, 12,000 BPD; ARCO 12,000 BPD, EXXON, 20,000 BPD, AND SEVERAL SMALLER U.S. FIRMS. ONLY NON-U.S. PURCHASER OF MEXICAN CRUDE IS ISRAEL.

5. PRICE IS IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF US 11.20/BBL BUT PRESSURE ON PEMEX REPORTEDLY FROM SEVERAL PURCHASERS TO LOWER PRICE TO MORE COMPETITIVE LEVEL. PEMEX APPARENTLY STILL HAVING TROUBLE SELLING THIS HIGH PRICED CRUDE. CONTACT REPORTED EXXON IN PARTICULAR IS BALKING AT HIGH PRICE AND NOT TAKING AS MUCH CRUDE AS PEMEX HAS OFFERED THEM. PEMEX REPORTEDLY CONVINCED EXXON TO TAKE CRUDE WHILE CONTRACT RENEOTITATED.

6. PEMEX HAS NEGOTIATED ARRANGEMENT WITH SHELL (U.S.) TO PROCESS 35,000 BPD MEXICAN CRUDE INTO GASOLINE IN CURACAO REFINERY FOR REIMPORT INTO MEXICO. MEXICAN GASOLINE REFINERY CAPACITY IS INSUFFICIENT TO COVER DOMESTIC DEMAND. MEXICO HAS ALSO IMPORTED GASOLINE FROM ITALY (SARDINIA) AND CARIBBEAN REFINERIES TO COVER SHORTAGE.
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